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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2004      LB 824, 997

advancement of LB 824 to E & R Initial. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. The question before the body is advancement to E & R Initial on LB 824. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 824 does advance. Mr. Clerk, LB 997.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 997 was introduced by Senator Baker. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 12 of this year, referred to the Urban Affairs Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments attached. (AM2293, Legislative Journal page 397.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker, you're recognized to open on LB 997.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. This bill is a bill dealing with the process of declaring unkempt property a nuisance. It does not change the time lines, it does not change the classification of the cities it applies to. It does change the process, though. And that change of process...right now, a city has the ability to...or there was a requirement to notify by either personal service or mail, certified mail. If they do not...are not able to notify the owner, then they have a real problem as far as notifying this person that it is declared a nuisance. So the bill changes...it says, if notice of personal service...or notice by personal service or certified mail is unsuccessful, notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, or by posting the notice on the lot or ground upon which the nuisance is to be abated or removed. That's what it does. It handles villages, Class I and II cities only. And that's...it's simply a means of allowing cities--and I hate to say it, and it's very sad--but our small towns in Nebraska are slowly decaying. There are...in my particular home town, there are a number of lots around town that really do need cleaning. They're owned by absentee landowners. And it's simply the